

## **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

In complete response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2004, on the above identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 11 – 23 are pending in this application. With this amendment, claims 11 - 13 have been cancelled. Claims 14, 16, 18, and 23 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claim 24 has been added. The Applicants respectfully contend that no new matter has been added with the addition of this claim.

### **Specification Objections:**

The Examiner has objected to the abstract for containing the term “means”. The abstract has been corrected so as to conform with MPEP § 608.01(b).

The Examiner also objected to the Specification of the present application for failing to include appropriate section headers. The current application has been amended so as to include the appropriate section headers.

As all of the Examiner's objections to the Specification have been addressed, the Applicants respectfully assert that this basis for objection deserves reconsideration.

### **Information Disclosure Statement:**

Copies of references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement Form 1449, that were not considered, are enclosed herein. These references are: WO 02 04899 and JP 2000 338115.

### **Claim Objections:**

Claims 11 and 13 stand objected to for lacking a proper transitional phrase, as per MPEP § 2111.03. Claims 11 and 13 have been cancelled. For this reason, the Applicants respectfully assert that this basis for objection deserves reconsideration.

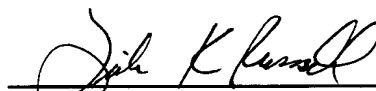
### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:**

The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations and amendments, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 are now moot.

## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Date: December 23, 2004**

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2004.

  
Diana Guzman